

Goodwin's Weekly

Vol. 27

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, DECEMBER 2, 1916

No. 21

Distress In The Cities

LOOKING from a distance the situation in the cities of the east seems just now to be very dangerous. All the accounts agree that those cities are filled with money; the same accounts agree that in each one of them there are thousands of people on the verge of starvation, which makes us know intuitively that there are thousands of delicate women and little children, who at night go half supperless to bed. That is the situation which swiftly converts naturally kindly men into half wild beasts, which in a breath are converted into incendiaries, and which needs but a cry, to usher in a reign of violence. Those cities ought to move in self defense. Their officers, their boards of trade, all their quasi-public bodies should move in concert to prevent the violence which is imminent over them now. There should be superintendence in every ward in the city. There should be a house to house patrol in every block, every case of destitution should be sought out, reported and relieved. It would no doubt be a costly business but it would be much cheaper, than to wait a little longer until in an excess of suffering the wild beast in the breasts of the poor is aroused and the city is given over to plunder and to flame.

To meet emergencies of that kind, in every state, is what the income tax should have been devoted to, but no matter, the call is upon those cities, all the property in those cities is in jeopardy, and it will be cheaper for them to move at once than to take the risk of what will be in case the wild beast in human nature breaks its chain, and starts out to prey on the property of all indiscriminately. In olden days in the cities, before gas was invented, or electricity was tamed, the watchman called the hours, proclaiming through the night that all was well. That is what peaceful citizens want to hear now through the hours, that all is well. There should be a block patrol in every city. There should be a court to hear their report every morning, with power to relieve the distressed. It would not only protect the poor, but detect the depraved who prowl at night. There would be extra cost to provide for the worthy or the helpless. There would be reduced cost in watching and prosecuting the depraved. There would be an increased sense of security to the peaceable citizen, and this close walk would inure to the public good.

That Peace Conference

THE motives, no doubt, of the men and women who are moving toward a plan of peace conference are excellent, but we fear for their success. They have not in their natures enough that is belligerent, and sagacious to meet the obstacles which they will encounter. Tigers cannot be subdued by feeding them soothing syrup, while yet they are in full fury.

To one looking on, it seems as though the design ought to be, without direct approach to the fighting forces, to prepare a code which all nations would approve of and be willing to both adopt and defend.

We do not believe that such a man as David Starr Jordan has the elements in him to enable

him to prepare such a code. It isn't a case of a school master talking to pupils who have been misbehaving; the appeals must reach men who have consecrated their lives to a principle and a cause, who have offered their lives over and over for it, and whatever is offered, to meet their approval must hold within it all the requirements of justice, tempered as it may be with mercy. A something to make an appeal to all that is high and true and steadfast, and just in human nature. Hence we fear for the outcome of the plan. It seems to us that President Wilson ought to have the elements within himself to make an appeal to the neutral nations to join with ours by sending representatives to our country to frame a code, which the world might accept, which would bring to the president more fame than he has ever yet won, and in which the very sense and wording of would be an inspiration to the nations appealed to to send their representatives to join in the work and which would kindle a sympathetic thrill in the fighting powers themselves. No kind and philanthropic ideas are going to do the work. What is needed now is a broad and comprehensive statesmanship, governed by an inflexible sense of justice, a statesmanship high enough to take in effect—the sword from the hand of the fighter, and place in the hand, to write the final decree, a pen entirely great.

Our Place

NEW and wonderful illumination has been prepared and attached to the statue of Liberty enlightening the world on the little island in New York bay. Far out at sea incoming mariners will see and salute it; on departing ships it will shine down in benediction.

Our countrymen should try to so establish their lives that the statue will be their symbol; that those who near our shores will hail us with welcomes, those departing will carry but delicious remembrances.

And all that is needed for that is for us as a people to be absolutely fair, while insisting upon our own rights to extend exact justice to all other people and to extend absolute justice to all other nations. Our country has a great area and is blessed by more varied resources, not half of which are, as yet utilized, than any other land; it is a place where the poor of the world assimilate. That work up to date has created the American race; it should continue and grow refined, and the thoughts that govern should be that excellence and honors attach only to minds and hearts, and that in them rests the only claim that mortals in a free land have to honestly prefer for recognition among men.

Ours should be the very greatest of nations; our influence should be paramount among the nations, and it will be when we become great enough as individuals to make that influence which comes of intelligence and courage and an incorruptible sense of justice.

Located as we are, equipped as we are, powerful as we are, the only thing required is the square deal which inserts upon the right from others, which never fails to extend the right to others.

On A Strictly Financial Basis

WE notice that the sugar company in two adjacent states has advanced the price that it will pay for beets next year by from seventy-five cents to more than a dollar per ton.

That shows that the managers of the sugar company have not the slightest doubt of the good faith of the Democracy in their contract not to disturb the duty on imported sugar. And this is good to see. These is nothing like reducing political principles to a strict financial basis.

True, to see a great political party for a consideration of a few electoral votes sell out its most ancient and sacred principle and slap in the face its claim of a determination to insure to the people industrial freedom, has a raw look and to see the people of three or four sovereign states sell their sacred votes for a little sugar and by the act insult their governor, their supreme and district courts, their own manhood and womanhood and at the same time violate a principle which they had clung to through all the mutations of sixty-nine years, would be altogether inexplicable except that we remembered that "ours is a peculiar people," and that "ours is a business God."

In that light we can understand that to reduce our religion and our moral perception to a strictly financial basis and place them in a board that will see that the books exactly balance every night, is a plan that inflicts no wear and tear upon the ordinary business man and leaves the horny hand of toll free at night to fold itself and sleep the sleep of the just even as does the tired horse or mule.

Do Not Let Things Slow Down

JUST before he died the late J. J. Hill said the great trouble with the railroads of the country was their lack of terminal facilities. That is vividly apparent now. We hear of much scarcities of cars all over the country, especially along the Atlantic coast, the reason being that the cars crowded there have no places in which to unload.

The ships to bear the products away are so few, as well as the warehouses for storage, that the cars have to remain loaded week after week and the business of the whole country halts.

A like condition will prevail with the stoppage of the war, all over the country unless extraordinary exertions shall be made to prevent the congestion that will naturally follow.

Some things at least should be anticipated. A great deal of material will need sending away; a great deal of material in foreign countries will be waiting to be brought and which our country will need in its work. The ships for this work should be ready; the ships and their crews; behind these the ship yards should be in perfect repair to put through all work desired of them; behind them the smelters and rolling mills and structural iron works, and behind them iron and coal mines.

The government assumes the ownership of the natural resources of the country. Are there no irrigation or power enterprises to be vitalized, to make work for needy men?

Are there no new railroads needed to prevent